

Strengthening Families Storytime: Concrete Support in Times of Need

THE MESSAGE

During your storytime, try to deliver the following message to adults:

Life can be unpredictable. Knowing that you have the support you need for your family to have food, shelter, clothing, health care, etc. during a time of crisis can mitigate the stress of a bad situation.

Your library can help you find local resources to assist with basic needs during difficult times.

STORYTIME THEMES

Children need to know that their basic needs will be met during a time of crisis. A storytime that focuses on different ways to access resources can help children understand there are options and feel safe.

Possible themes/titles for this type of storytime include:

- Helping Hands
- Reliable Resources
- Community Cares

LEARN MORE

<https://www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org/>

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/emergency_ts_2020.pdf

BOOKS

- *Breaking News* by Sarah Lynne Reul
- *A Terrible Thing Happened* by Margaret Holmes, Saha Mudlaff and Cary Pillo
- *Good People Everywhere* by Lynea Gillen
- *Most People* by Michael Leannah and Jennifer E. Morris
- *Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena
- *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams

Reading books about meeting basic needs can be helpful to children who face uncertainty.

ACTIVITIES

Try incorporating activities that involve planning or problem-solving.

- Practice a fire drill
- “Plan” a day at the park and talk about what to do if it rains, there are ants, etc.
- Draw a flow chart of different options
- Invite a community helper to visit storytime